

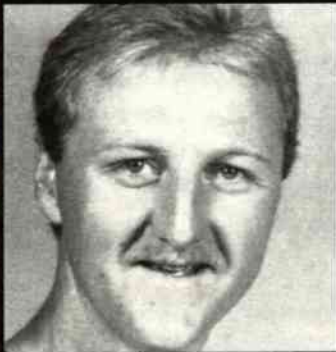
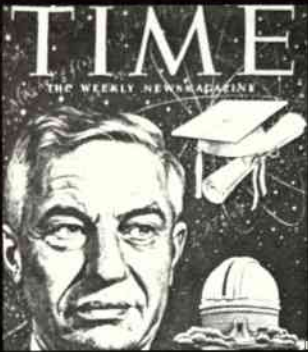
Biography-Collective

Wabash Valley

M A G A Z I N E

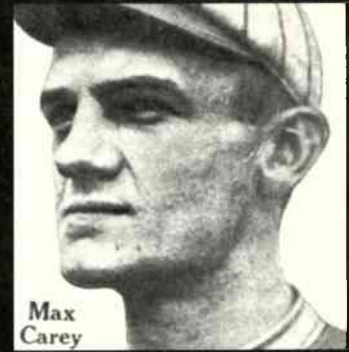
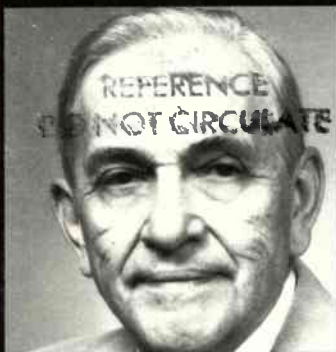
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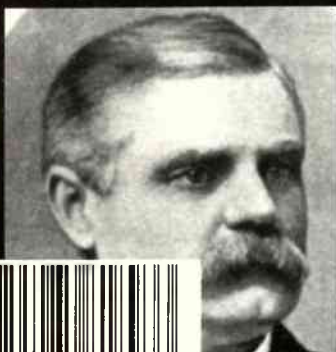


HOMETOWN HEROES

The 100 most
famous and influential
people in the history
of the greater
Terre Haute area



Max
Carey



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**Famous People of Terre Haute—Index of names from series
written by Mrs Harry M. (Margaret Schultz) Jackson**

Abbott, Lyman
Adams, Carrie B.
Bowers, Claude Gernade
Brennan, Catherine Staff
Condit, Blackford
Coudert, Amelia C.
Debs, Eugene Victor
Dreiser, Theodore
Dresser, Paul
Ehrmann, Howard Boring
Ehrmann, Max
Fairbanks, Crawford
Gale, Zona
Gallagher, Tony
Grimes, Allyn
Halstead, William Riley
Harper, Ida Husted
Keaton, Buster
King, Alice Fisher Harcourt
Kussner, Albert J.
Link, Joseph Ephrain
McKee, Mabel
Melville, Rose
Neff, Arthur
Nelson, Thomas Henry
Richardson, Joseph
Risley, John E.
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Thompson, Richard W.
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FAMOUS PEOPLE of TERRE HAUTE
by Mrs. HARRY M. JACKSON

Arthur Neff was a baseball player with the National League for fourteen years. He was a great favorite with the fans of the great American game. He is also a musician of skill and often entertains his friends with piano or organ music.

**FAMOUS PEOPLE OF TERRE
HAUTE**

Mrs. Harry M. Jackson

I was greatly surprised by the unlimited number of names of the different ones that have lived in our city, from all walks of life, that began to rise up to claim a place on this paper. I have tried to bring to your attention only what seemed to me to be the outstanding ones. I have endeavored to group them under special headings such as authors, statesmen, artists, etc. The largest number is in the group of writers. We have had in the past so many professors of what we called at that time "The State Normal" that have written one or more books, most often on their special line of study, that I have not brought them into this paper for it has grown of sufficient length as it is.

SEE COTTON CONTENT

of
Cotton

The first to be mentioned is Reverend Blackford Condit, Presbyterian minister, father of Helen and the late Allen Condit, who wrote a history of the English Bible, a short study of "Familiar Bible Texts" and a "History of Early Terre Haute", a most interesting and authentic piece of work. He possessed some of the earliest Crammer and Matthews editions in black letters. 1549.

Bud Taylor, a Terre Haute product,
gained national reputation as a prize
fighter.

Appearing on the stage and in the movies are some favorites: Valeska Surratt, Tony Gallagher, Buster Keaton, and Allyn Grimes.

82 1/2 COTTON CONTENT

of Birmingham

Everett Sanders was congressman
in 1917 and secretary to President
Calvin Coolidge while he was in the
White House.

SECTION 1001

Everett Sanders

All of us have read one or more of the delightful lively character sketches of Zona Gale, now of Portage, Wis. She lived here with an aunt and uncle by the name of Rogers. Her book, "Miss Lulu Bett" is on one of the American Library Association's reading courses. The 20th Century American Novels.

Clyde Volkers is a young naturalist who has illustrated lectures on bird, plant and insect life. The illustrated slides which he paints himself are most beautiful and accurate studies; they have been accorded widespread approval.

Alice Fisher Harcourt King was a

very good actress, overcoming several handicaps. She was very large and had no special beauty to help in her profession, but she had talent and gained a great place with the theatre-going public.

Crawford Fairbanks gave to the city in the name of his wife the Older Ladies' Home in Eighth Avenue. He also gave the Public Library in memory of his mother, and joined with his brother Edward in giving over a hundred and twenty acres on the river for a city park. His grandson has established a fund to purchase scientific books for the library. The grandson is a son of Sadie Fairbanks and Bruce Failey. He spends most of his time in special scientific research in this country and abroad.

Max Ehrmann is a Terre Haute poet and author. He is best known for "A Prayer" which has been published in many editions and is still popular. This prayer is on the wall at the Riverside Church in New York where Harry Emerson Fosdick is pastor. Rev. Fosdick said that the prayer could rightfully be put anywhere. Mr. Ehrmann has written several plays, short ones, "Jesus—Passion Play," and "Wife of Marobius." Several of his one-act plays are used all over the country by dramatic clubs in high schools and colleges. He is one of the few writers that has always lived and continues to live in Terre Haute.

COLLECTION COMEPI

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Mabel McKee, formerly a teacher,
is now a newspaper woman and writ-
er of many short stories, one of
which is called "Heart of a Rose."

Carrie B. Adams, song writer, was especially familiar to children in the grade schools. She was organist at the Congregational Church for many years. She was so alive to music that she showed it in every movement. She trained a "Pie Club" of boys, and they often gave entertainments for the public. She wrote all the music, as a rule.

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Rose Melville was born in 1873 in Terre Haute, the daughter of Rev. Jacob and Caroline Smock. She was educated at St. Mary-of-the-Woods and traveled with her own troupe. She has played in "Sad Sea Waves" and other plays, but she was best known in "Sis Hopkins," as it was a great success and had a long run. She married and lives in an eastern state; friends say that she still has some of the humor she displayed in "Sis Hopkins."

John E. Risley of New York City, who served as minister to Denmark in 1893-98, began the practice of law in our city. He made a splendid record in the diplomatic service. Later he continued the practice of law in New York in the office of Senator Voorhees to whom he was related.

NEW YORK COLLECTION

III
Bancroft

Amelia C. Coudert was also a miniature painter. She was talented in a number of ways and achieved fame as a miniature painter on ivory. She received her first training in art at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, going afterward to New York to follow up her studies. Her first important commission came through Alice Fisher Harcourt King who induced Lillian Russell to sit for her. In 1897 she painted the late King Edward, then the Prince of Wales. In 1899 she went to Russia to paint the Czar and Czarina and other royalty. She also went to South Africa and painted Cecil Rhodes. She lived abroad for some years. She passed away only recently.

Dentistry

Dr. Joseph Richardson, a distinguished dentist, practiced in Terre Haute for many years and taught in the Cincinnati Dental College. He wrote "Practical Treatise of Mechanical Dentistry," which has been used as a text book in nearly all dental colleges in the United States and Europe. He was a member of the Central Association of German Dentists in Germany.

3240 COTTON CONTENT

III
5
Cotton

5233 COLLECTION COPY 1512

Catherine Staff Brennan is a very lovely and dainty dancer, who originally lived here. For several years before her marriage she danced with the ballet chorus of the Chicago Grand Opera Company and later appeared in choruses at the Capital Theatre in New York.

Another local writer was Ida Husted Harper. She was the sister of the late Mrs. Froeb of South Sixth Street. She was a newspaper woman. Her husband was Tom Harper, at one time a well-known lawyer of this city. She was connected with the Chicago Times and a Detroit paper after leaving here. She also worked on the New York Christian Union. She was an extensive traveler. She wrote "Susan B. Anthony, Biography." This work involved two years of exacting labor and historical research while she lived in the Anthony home in Rochester, N. Y. The book was widely read and favorably reviewed.

SHAW-COLLIER COLLECTION

of American life

Medicine and Surgery

Dr. Joseph Ephrain Link, a famous surgeon of this city, was born here in 1834. He was in the employ of the railroad. He performed many unusual and beneficial operations which established him as one of the leading surgeons in America. His fame spread to Europe where his inventions in surgery were adopted. He wrote many medical articles and lectured before groups of medical students. His daughter, Bonnie Link, who was a pretty blue-eyed girl, married Will Davis, a brother of Gabe Davis of this city, and they live in a northern state.

Paul Dresser was born in 1857. His read name was Dreiser but he took the name of Dresser as a stage name. He was a popular song writer and author of his day. He was an unusually large man, very affable, generous and sympathetic with his friends. \$30,000 was raised for a memorial in his honor. "On the Banks of the Wabash" is his most popular and best beloved song. I was a young girl when it came out. I remember distinctly the young lady, Mary South, to whom it was dedicated. She was of the queenly type which one could call beautiful but not pretty.

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55
Eugene Victor Debs was born in Terre Haute in 1885 and died in 1926. In 1885 he served as a member of the Indiana Legislature. He was always interested in better labor conditions. In 1900, 1904 and 1908 he was a candidate of the Socialist Party for President of the United States. Because of his likeable personality, Mr. Debs commanded the respect of unionists and radicals. Even those who did not agree or accept his economic doctrines counted him among their friends. Many of his home guests were some of the famous and foremost people of his time. He was the author of several books and possessed many autographed books with word of felicitation from his author friends.

The famous Lyman Abbott, owner and editor of the splendid magazine, "Outlook", was one of the early day ministers of the First Congregational Church in Terre Haute. It was a trying ordeal for him and his wife coming here from the east to a place of 18,000 in 1860. He had to face the question of slavery and decide his own position. There were southern sympathizers in the community who made his stand for abolition most perilous. Even some of his members drew off from church and worshipped at another place for a few months but finally came back. As he describes it, they were lean years. Citizens of Terre Haute are glad that our city once sheltered this eminent author, journalist and famous doctor of divinity.

Another famous character was Richard Wigginton Thompson, born in Virginia in 1809, died in Terre Haute in 1900. His home was here for more than half a century. He was better known as Col. Dick Thompson; he was an international character, beloved by every one that knew him. If ever Terre Haute citizens had a reason to be proud of one of its own, it was Richard Thompson. He was brilliant in mind, a man of unusual ability, lovable and kind of heart, and most pleasing in every way. In early life he slept on a counter for over a year and a half after the general store in which he worked was closed. He studied by candle-light the laws of Indiana until they were memorized. The first case that he handled gave him such a reputation that he was obliged shortly to give up his clerking. He first was sent to Congress. At the close of his first term he located in Terre Haute, moving from Bedford. He practiced law when he was not in government service in Washington. In childhood he was surrounded by a political atmosphere. His maternal grandfather was a friend to a number of men on the staff of George Washington, of which he was a member. Later his own friendship and friendly relations were found among the political leaders of his time. Colonel Thompson was Secretary of the Navy in President Hayes' cabinet. His acquaintance with Lincoln strengthened into a close friendship. In the days of the Civil war he served as commandant of Camp Dick Thompson at Terre Haute and provost marshal of the district. During his political career he was appointed U. S. minister to Austria, a post he declined. As Secretary of the Panama Canal, one of the positions he was offered, he would have received a salary of \$25,000, but he refused to accept it. Through his influential connections he could have acquired great wealth but he died a poor man. In fact, only through the generosity of W. R. McKeen, it is said, was he privileged to live in his home on South Sixth street the last years of his life. He was an interesting and effective speaker, and he was called on often as the main speaker at local celebrations of all kinds. In his connections with Rose Polytechnic Institute he was willing to give any assistance that he could. Among his books are "Personal Recollections of the Presidents of the United States" and "History of the Tariff."

Claude Gernade Bowers was born in Hamilton county, Indiana, in 1878. He is one of the eminent leaders of the Democratic party. His years of political study and experience in journalism have made him well qualified to write on the subjects he chooses. His books, "Jefferson and Hamilton," "Battles of the Jackson Period," "Tragic Era," and "Life of John Worth Kern" are being widely read at the present time. While in Terre Haute he lived just north of Crawford on South Eighth street and was employed by the Morning Star. He has held editorial positions on Indiana papers and the New York World. He was candidate for congress in 1904-08. From 1911 to 1918 he was secretary to Senator John D. Kern. He was the recipient of a medal for his work on Jefferson at the formal dedication of Monticello to the nation, July 4, 1920. Governor Perry of Tennessee appointed him a member of the committee to determine the true historical value of Jackson's triumph at New Orleans. He was national chairman of the Democratic convention at the meeting four years ago in Texas. He was the U. S. minister to Spain when the war broke out; I do not know if he returned to the States or where he is at present.

Theodore Dreiser, born in 1871, was educated in the public schools of Terre Haute and at Indiana University. His critics consider him the leading present day fiction writer of America and compare his work in a most favorable and complimentary manner with the celebrated French writer, Emile Zola. Mr. Dreiser is a realist whose harsh adjectives convey to the reader the hard and painful elements of life and with equal care his observations of its sublimely beautiful features are recorded. Possibly no writer has ever encountered more difficulty in reaching his place of distinction. The attacks on his work were as severe as some of his own methods of expression. Only in recent years have words of praise been uppermost. He is possibly the most distinguished citizen of Terre Haute in his field of art. His best known book, "American Tragedy," has been read continually since its publication.

Rev. William Riley Halstead, of the Methodist Church, was also an extensive scholar of the Bible. It was really a privilege to sit and hear him give some of the knowledge he had gained in his eighty odd years of life of Biblical interpretation, while keeping up with modern thought in every

way of the Bible. He was the author of "Future Religious Policy in America," "Christ in Industries," "Civil and Religious Forces," "Cosmic View of Religion," "Tragedy of Labor," and "Upon a Backwoods Farm."

Chauncey Rose was one of the early settlers, coming to Terre Haute in 1877. He started his business career on \$2,000 that he had made in Rosedal before locating here. He engaged in many enterprises with this small capital. He amassed what was considered a great fortune at that time. Most of it he gave to the city through a number of philanthropic channels, making generous gifts to churches, the Rose Ladies' Aid, Providence Hospital, Rose Dispensary, Rose Orphan's Home and the Rose Polytechnic Institute. After his brother John's will had been in the courts for six years it could not be executed under the New York law. He was the sole heir of the one million, six hundred thousand dollar estate. He gave it away in the name of his brother John to more than 80 charitable purposes in New York state. Chauncey Rose died a comparatively poor man. His own statement proves it as he was known to have said that there would be little to dispose of after his death. It is said that he gave away ten dollars daily just in answer to calls at his office. He owned and sold a lot of real estate on the payment plan. If anyone owed him and could not pay because he did not have employment, Mr. Rose obtained employment for him.

Howard Boring Ehrmann is a nephew of Max Ehrmann. He is a young professor now at the University of Michigan. He is making a

name for himself with his fine record in the history department at both Yale and Michigan Universities. Both universities have asked him to write text books of ancient and modern history that they would use. He has merited sufficient attention from the social science research council of New York City to be included in a group of American professors whom the council sent abroad for research. He launched an intensive study of the Italian foreign policy. He has been abroad several times doing special research work. The University of Michigan furnished the funds for him to employ an interpreter on this last trip—in 1936.

Thomas Henry Nelson was a member of an old aristocratic family of Kentucky. He practiced law here and became one of Indiana's great political leaders. His flow of oratory, originality of expression and personality won for him not only friends but friendly relations with foreign countries for his own United States. His political prestige classed him with the foremost leaders of the day; he was one of the founders of the Republican Party. Under Lincoln he was appointed minister to Chili. While living there his diplomatic service was of great import, as history shows. He thrilled the people and brought forth international comment with his heroic bravery on the occasion of the burning of the church, Pampania, in which 4,000 people lost their lives. He made a long speaking tour in behalf of the 14th Amendment. Another honor was his appointment to Mexico as envoy plenipotentiary. His steady progress in the adjustment of the affairs of his government with Mexico was so effective that his resignation was not accepted for several months. After his active political career he retired to a quiet life in Terre Haute, his home.

Artists

Albert J. Kussner was a musician and composer. He was a brother of Amelia Kussner Coudert. He was a young man in Terre Haute at the time Janet Scudder lived here. The World's Fair at Chicago in 1893 took these gifted people and gave them an opportunity to develop their talents. Some of Kussner's best known compositions are "Moon Mother," dedicated to his sister, Amelia, "Evening Hour," to his sister, Louise, "Memories," to his mother, and "Woodland Mazurka" to the sisters of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

He sold his musical catalogue to Bosworth's of London. They published four of his compositions written while he was in Paris. Through his wife's efforts, Albert Kussner had a meeting with Madame Hedwig Chretien, known as the greatest living composer of ecclesiastical music. It was always Madame who was commissioned by Notre Dame, St. Sulpice and Magdelene to prepare music for their ceremonials. She had Kussner play his own music. During the first three pieces all she said was "Very Good"; during the fourth rendition she exclaimed in French, "It is the music exquisite." They worked together from 11 a. m. to 10 p. m. without food; this was trying for his wife who was calling with him. Madame Chretien's children were all talented musicians and their home which had belonged to Victor Hugo was filled with musical instruments of all kinds. On his last visit to Terre Haute Kussner was motoring with some friends. As they were passing Highland Lawn, he had them stop on the crest of the hill and remarked as he looked over into the cemetery, "I shall be lying there in that soft moonlight sometime." Later, when he departed this life, they brought him back and buried him there.